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REPORTS

TO THE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

ON

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL
SUBJECTS.

(NEW SERIES No. 82.)

Dr. Morgan Rees's Report to the Local Government Board on Conditions of Housing and other Sanitary Circumstances in the St. Dogmells Rural District.



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Dr. Morgan Rees's Report to the Local Government Board on Conditions of Housing and other Sanitary Circumstances in the St. Dogmells Rural District.

G. S. BUCHANAN,

Assistant Medical Officer.

5th September, 1913.

The annual report for the year 1911 of the county medical officer of health for Pembroke drew attention to the housing conditions, which he described as wretched, that prevailed in that county, and named two local authorities who apparently had decided to take no further action under the Housing and Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909. One of these was the St. Dogmells Rural District Council with which the Board had already been in correspondence in regard to the insufficient information as to housing provided in the annual report of the medical officer of health for 1910.

At a meeting held on February 8th, 1912, this district council had passed a resolution quoted in the Appendix which concluded with the expression of opinion that "the local rates are so overburdened as to render it impossible for them to bear the cost of providing the new houses and other laudable conveniences recommended by the Act." This resolution, together with the annual report of the medical officer of health of the district, contained so little in the way of indication that the powers and duties of a district council under the Housing Acts and Regulations were being seriously undertaken in St. Dogmells that the Board wrote in November to draw attention to the resolution and to ask for reconsideration of the matter by the district council. The council replied that "while this council does move under the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, any of the extreme steps advocated by the Act are unnecessary in their district." This reply raised a question of fact on which the Board desired to obtain direct evidence from one of their inspectors, while it seemed also desirable to obtain information as to general sanitary administration under the Public Health Acts in the district. I visited the district and now beg to report as follows:—

Former inspections.—The district has been reported upon already on two occasions; once in 1870 by the late Mr. Netten Ratcliffe, who made inquiry, on behalf of the Privy Council, into outbreaks of enteric fever at St. Dogmells and Cilgerran; and again in 1899 by Dr. Deane Sweeting who reported, on behalf of the Board, on the sanitary circumstances and administration of the rural district.

On the former occasion the water supplies were found to be defective and liable to pollution, and the sewerage imperfect, while the means for the disposal of excrement, ashes, and house-refuse were objectionable. On the latter occasion recommendations were made, and the following is an extract from the concluding portion of Dr. Sweeting's report: "The most urgent necessities for the St. Dogmells Rural District appear to be: (1) The provision of proper main drainage for the more populous and quasi-urban portions of the district, such as the villages of St. Dogmells, Cilgerran, Newport, and part of Dinas; (2) the culverting of streams, to prevent their water being used for drinking; (3) improved methods of refuse disposal; (4) the undertaking of or contracting for scavenging; (5) the acquisition of urban powers with a view to byelaws for the regulation of slaughter-houses and of new buildings; (6) the registration of cowsheds, dairies, and milk-shops, and the adoption of regulations for their control; (7) the carrying out of improved methods of disinfection; (8) the provision of an isolation hospital for infectious diseases."

General Description.—The rural district is situated in the northern part of Pembrokeshire. On the south-west it is bounded by the Haverfordwest Rural District, on the south by the Narberth Rural District, on the south-east by the Llanfyrnach and Cardigan Rural Districts, on the north-east by the Borough of Cardigan and Cardigan Rural District, and on the north-west by the St. George's Channel

The district consists of 17 parishes and has an area of 58,872 acres. It measures about $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles from east to west and $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles from north to south and is hilly throughout. In the extreme eastern corner of the district the Great Western Railway runs for a few miles; while in the rest of its area roads, of which county roads measure $20\frac{1}{2}$ miles and district roads $166\frac{1}{2}$ miles, form the only means of travelling.

The population is thinly scattered except in the villages of St. Dogmells, Cilgerran, Newport, and Dinas which are, as Dr. Sweeting described, quasi-urban in character. It was enumerated in 1911 at 7,888, which is a decrease of 364 on the previous census. In six parishes, namely, Bayvil, Llanfair Nant Gwyn, Llanfihangel Penbedw, Llanychlwydog, Meline, and Whitechurch, the population had not decreased but was practically stationary.

Cattle or sheep farming is the staple industry of the district, most of the land being used for grazing purposes. Along the coast, fishing provides a means of livelihood, while in Cilgerran quarrying of slate affords employment to some fifty men. The wages paid to farm labourers are low, ranging from 7s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. a week, out of which house-rent and rates have generally to be paid. As a rule, the labourer is given his food at the farm, and a "drill" of potatoes, *i.e.*, a furrow in which potatoes are sown, for the use of his family, the value of the latter emolument being estimated at from 3s. to 6s. a year. Quarrymen are better paid, their wages ranging from 18s. to 20s. a week, while road labourers receive 15s. or 16s. a week.

Geologically the district is composed of Llandeilo rock consisting of limestones, sandstones, slates and shales, while in the

western part strands of greenstone and interbedded felspathic ashes are met with. The amount of drift is small, for the underlying rock outcrops close to or at the surface.

The rateable value is £41,528, and the assessable value £28,169. The rate for general purposes is 1s. 0½d., and that for Poor Law purposes 3s. 10d. to 4s. 1¾d. in the pound. There is no outstanding debt.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Housing Conditions.—The returns supplied to me by the assistant overseers show a total of 2,436 houses in the district, of which 2,297 were inhabited. Of these 2,436 houses, 2,351 or 96·5 per cent. are rented at or under £16 per annum, and 1,475 or 60 per cent. under £5. Table II. in the Appendix gives for each parish the number of houses rented under £5, between £5 and £10, between £10 and £16, and over £16.

Leaving aside houses of the rather better class and of higher rental it may be said that the majority of dwellings are cottages made of flat slaty stones and built on the bare earth without foundations or damp-proof courses. As a rule the walls are about 20 inches in thickness and the stones are bound together by a material which is as friable as earth. What pointing did exist has, in many instances, disappeared, resulting in crevices and holes in the walls. Generally the roofs are also made of flat slaty stones; sometimes they are patched with cement. In a few instances they are made of thatch, which sometimes has been covered with corrugated iron sheeting. In the poorer class of cottage eaves-spouting is absent; while the yard space belonging to the cottage is either unpaved or badly paved, the first condition being the more common. No attempt, as a rule, has been made to drain the yards, &c. which are consequently wet and dirty. In many instances cottages are built against the hill-side, back-to-earth, or with the earth excavated for a foot or so, leaving a trench, the bottom of which may be higher than the floor level. Dampness and dilapidation from the causes above mentioned must be considered to be common features of the cottages of the district.

The internal structure of cottages appears to vary according to the needs of the families which occupy them or of those for whom they were originally constructed. Some cottages consist of only one room with an unceiled roof and used both as sleeping and living room. Such are occupied, generally speaking, by one person or a married couple. Other cottages contain two rooms, both on the ground floor, of which one, the living room, extends upwards to the roof, while the second or the bedroom is separated from the roof by the joists and boards of a loft in which lumber is stored. In other cottages again the loft covers the whole of the rooms below, thus providing a third room. The lofts are always low and are intersected by rafters, the roof sloping from the centre beam towards the floor. Except just in the centre one can rarely stand upright in them, and they are almost invariably dark. A small skylight often provides the only means for the admission of light and fresh air. In many instances these lofts were found to be habitually used as

sleeping rooms. Extra sleeping accommodation is sometimes provided by means of cupboard beds in the living room.

The floors of the lower rooms sometimes consist of beaten earth, but as a rule are fairly good, being made of tiles, stone flags, or mortar. Many cases of broken floors were, however, seen. The window space of these rooms does not come up to modern requirements and they are almost always without back doors or back windows and are thus deprived of means of through ventilation.

The following examples of cottages may be given; some are in the villages, others in more isolated situations or attached to farms:—

1. Cottage occupied by a man and wife: The husband is a farm labourer earning 9s. a week. The cottage is built back-to-earth. On the ground floor there are two rooms, one of which is a living room, the other a bedroom measuring 100 square feet (6 feet 8 inches by 14 feet 6 inches) in floor space and 7 feet 2 inches in height. The floors of these rooms are in good repair, but the walls are very damp. A ladder leads to a loft which contains a bed. The dimensions of the loft are 268 square feet (18 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 6 inches) and 6 feet 6 inches high in the centre. The roof slopes directly to the floor, allowing a mean height of about 3 feet. The loft has no windows, and is ventilated solely by the ladderway. The roof is out of repair and requires eaves-troughing. The yard areas are unpaved and undrained. No closet accommodation.

2. Cottage occupied by a man, his wife, and daughter. Partly back-to-earth. Two rooms on ground floor, viz., a living room, and a bedroom containing two beds. The daughter was ill in bed at the time of my visit and her parents were recovering from recent illnesses. The bedroom measures 90 square feet in floor space (6 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 10 inches), and 7 feet in height. The walls are damp. The window is fixed and measures approximately 3 square feet. A fireplace and flue form the only communication with the open air. Upstairs, the loft (18 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 10 inches, or approximately 250 square feet in floor space) is 5 feet 6 inches high in the centre and 1 foot 6 inches at the side, giving a mean height of about 3 feet 6 inches. The skylight measures less than one square foot. The roof is not troughed at the eaves, and the yard is not drained.

3. A cottage rented at £2 10s. 0d. occupied by a woman, three daughters, and a grandchild. Two rooms on the ground floor; one a living room and the other a bedroom for a daughter and the child. The bedroom is 90 square feet in area (7 feet 2 inches by 12 feet 2 inches) and 7 feet in height. The window is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ square feet. The walls are very damp. A ladder leads up to a loft which contains two beds for the mother and two daughters. The loft has a floor space of 270 square feet (19 feet 9 inches by 13 feet 10 inches) and a height of 7 feet 6 inches in the centre and 1 foot 6 inches at the side, the mean height being about 4 feet 6 inches. The window is a little over one square foot (10 inches by 16 inches). The roof leaks at one end. The loft is dark, damp, and dilapidated.

4. A cottage occupied by a farm labourer, his wife and three young children. The man earns 11s. a week. Two rooms on the ground floor, one a living room, the other a bedroom. A ladder leads to a loft containing a bed and a cot for the three children, whose ages are 4 years, 3 years, and 9 months respectively. The loft measures about 340 square feet (24 feet by 14 feet 2 inches) in area, 9 feet in height at the centre, and 3 feet 3 inches at the side, the mean height being 6 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The window measures $3\frac{3}{4}$ square feet. The room is dark, and the walls are damp and dilapidated. At the time of my visit a girl, aged 16, was ill in bed with measles.

The house has one side built against the earth, and this wall is damp internally. The roof is without troughing, and the yard is unpaved and undrained. No closet accommodation.

5. A cottage occupied by a man and his wife. The man earns 7s. 6d. a week and pays £3 0s. 0d. rent. The cottage contains four rooms, two on the ground floor and two on the upper. The latter are low in headroom, and are without fireplaces or means for through ventilation. The house is

partly back-to-earth and is damp inside. The roof is without troughing, and the yard is unpaved and undrained. No closet accommodation.

6. A cottage partly back-to-earth and occupied by a man, his wife, and three children, viz., a girl, 11 years of age, and two boys, 9 and 7 years of age. Rent £3 10s. 0d. and rates in addition. The husband earns 15s. a week. On the ground floor there are two rooms, a living room and a bedroom. This bedroom is occupied by the man and wife and the boy aged 7. Its dimensions are: Floor space, 136 square feet (14 feet by 9 feet 8 inches); height, 7 feet 2 inches; window area, 6 square feet (3 feet by 2 feet). All four walls are damp throughout. In the living room the floor is broken, the earth being exposed.

Upstairs, the loft measures a little over 300 square feet (21 feet by 14 feet 6 inches) in area, its height is 7 feet 1 inch in the centre and 2 feet 6 inches at the side, the mean height being 4 feet 9 inches. Two children sleep in this room. The roof is exposed and leaks. The holes have been stuffed with rags, and that part of the roof over the bed has been covered with brown paper in order to keep out the rain. Daylight is admitted by means of a fixed skylight, measuring less than one square foot, and a window less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ square feet, the window being the only means, other than the leaky roof, by which fresh air can enter the room.

7. A cottage occupied by a woman and two sons, 19 and 14 years of age. Rent £3 0s. 0d. and rates in addition.

On the ground floor there are two rooms, the walls of which are damp. One room is used as a bedroom by the mother. Upstairs, a room in the loft measures about 170 square feet in area (17 feet 2 inches by 9 feet 8 inches), 6 feet 8 inches in height at the centre, and 2 feet 3 inches at the side, the mean height being 4 feet 6 inches. The skylight measures a little less than 3 square feet and affords the sole means for the admission of light and fresh air. The roof is lined internally with match-boarding. The two sons sleep in this room. The eaves-troughing is defective, and the yard is unpaved. In the garden there is a broken-down privy.

8. A cottage occupied by a woman and five children, the eldest of whom is 12 years of age. Rent £3 0s. 0d. Two rooms downstairs, one of which is used as a bedroom for two children. The headroom is low and the walls are damp. Upstairs, a loft contains two beds for the use of the mother and three children. Its dimensions are: Floor area, 174 square feet (12 feet by 14 feet 6 inches); height, in the centre, 6 feet 6 inches; at the side, 2 feet; the mean height being about 4 feet. A window measures $\frac{1}{2}$ a square foot (7 inches by 10 inches) and a fixed skylight nearly 2 feet square (1 foot 2 inches by 1 foot 6 inches). The floor is broken. The slates of the roof are exposed and have been covered internally with a sheet in order to keep out the wind.

The house is generally dilapidated. The lintel of the back-door is rotten and giving way, while the stones above appear as though they are on the point of falling. The yard is unpaved and undrained, and the roof is not troughed. In the garden there is a dilapidated pail-closet.

9. A cottage back-to-earth occupied by a mother and her child, aged 13. Rent £2 10s. 0d.

The two rooms on the ground floor are damp.

The loft contains a bed for the mother and child. In order to gain the interior of the room from the stairs one is obliged to grope on one's hands and knees. The dimensions of this room are: Floor area, 270 square feet (19 feet by 14 feet 4 inches); height, in the centre, 6 feet 10 inches; at the side, 2 feet; giving a mean height of 4 feet 5 inches. The one skylight is fixed and measures about $\frac{1}{2}$ a square foot (7 inches by 1 foot). There is no means of ventilation except by the staircase. The loft is very dark, and the walls are dilapidated. No closet accommodation.

10. A cottage occupied by a man and wife, and four children, the eldest of whom is 10 years old. The man pays £3 0s. 0d. rent, and earns 16s. a week.

The two downstairs rooms are damp, one being used as a bedroom for the man and wife.

The loft upstairs contains a bed and a "shake-down" on the floor for the four children. This room has a floor space of about 260 square feet (20 feet 2 inches by 13 feet 2 inches) and a height of 7 feet 4 inches in the centre, the roof sloping directly to the floor and allowing a mean height

of 3 feet 8 inches. The roof slates are exposed. There are no windows, and two small holes have been made in the roof for the admission of fresh air and light.

No closet accommodation.

11. A house and 13 acres of land occupied by a man, his wife, and four children. Rent £20 per annum.

The house contains seven rooms, two on the ground floor and five upstairs. The floors of the lower rooms are broken, the earth being exposed. Of the upstairs rooms two are mere "slopes," each measuring 16 feet 7 inches by 8 feet in area, and 8 feet in height at one side and 3 feet at the opposite, giving a mean height of 5 feet 6 inches. The window space measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ square feet. The remaining three rooms are used as bedrooms and are very damp, the walls of one room being covered with mildew.

12. A cottage occupied by a man, his wife, and four children, the eldest of whom is 11 years old.

Of two rooms on the ground floor, one is not used owing to its damp condition, while the other, the living room, has a broken floor, the earth being exposed.

The loft is approached by a ladder and has the following dimensions: Floor area, 320 square feet ($14\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 22 feet); height, at the centre, 6 feet 9 inches; at the side, 1 foot 6 inches; the mean height being about 4 feet. The skylight measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ square feet (1 foot by 1 foot 5 inches) and is the only means of admission of light and fresh air. The whole family sleep in the loft which, at the time of my visit, was occupied by a child ill with measles.

Other instances of cottages which are in a similar condition can be given.

I ascertained that, except in the matters referred to below, no attempt had been made by the district council to comply with Article 1 of the Housing (Inspection of district) Regulations, 1910, and arrange for a thorough inspection of the dwelling-houses in the district generally or in particular parts of it, with a view to obtaining reports on the matters which under Article II. are specially required to be investigated, namely, (1) the arrangements for preventing the contamination of the water supply; (2) closet accommodation; (3) drainage; (4) the condition of the dwelling-house in regard to light, the free circulation of air, dampness, and cleanliness; (5) the paving, drainage, and sanitary condition of any yard or out-houses belonging to or occupied with the dwelling-house; (6) the arrangements for the deposit of refuse and ashes; (7) the existence of any room which would, in pursuance of sub-section (7) of Section 17 of the Act of 1909, be a dwelling-house so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation; (8) any defects in other matters which may tend to render the dwelling-house dangerous or injurious to the health of an inhabitant.

Since 1911 inspections of houses had been made here and there by the medical officer of health and the inspector of nuisances on their own initiative; but as they did not have the support and the co-operation of their council in the fulfilment of the council's duties under the Housing Acts very little effect could result. In February, however, just before my intended inquiry was announced, the council appointed a committee "to consider the journal of the inspector with regard to the houses reported on therein by him" (*vide* minute of council's meeting, February 6th, 1913). The records of 188 inspections were accordingly submitted and approved. They referred mainly to the need of provision of closet accommodation and minor repairs to dwellings.

It was, however, too early for all the recommendations of the inspector of nuisances to have been carried out when I visited the district.

It is clear from the above account that I could find no evidence in justification of the attitude of the council in regard to housing matters which is indicated in their correspondence with the Board and in the extracts from their minutes given in the Appendix. On the contrary the evidence points to the necessity of systematic inspection of houses and of the application of the Housing Acts. Many of the houses, even on a lenient standard which takes account of what the people have been accustomed to in the way of houses, can only be regarded as being unfit for habitation; while others, if the Housing Acts had been timely applied, would have been made reasonably healthy.

I came across several instances of families having recently occupied unsatisfactory houses without any attempt being made to render the dwelling reasonably fit for human habitation.

It is important also that the means by which the provision of new cottages can be promoted should be seriously considered, particularly in localities in which existing dwellings are found to be so unsatisfactory that they are beyond remedy. In this connection the application by the District Council of their powers under the Housing Acts to provide working-class dwellings needs to be taken into account.

Water-supplies.—The chief sources of supply are springs and dip-wells. Since Dr. Sweeting's visit, some of the springs at St. Dogmells and those at Moylgrove have been impounded in brick and cement chambers and the water conveyed to stand-pipes in the villages.

Owing to the proximity to houses, the fissured nature of the slaty rock which appears close to the surface, and the mode of disposal of excrement, some springs are liable to pollution. Particularly is this the case at St. Dogmells where outbreaks of enteric fever have repeatedly occurred in the village; the cause of which is attributed locally to pollution of water supplies and lack of sewerage.

At Newport and Cilgerran supplies are obtained from unprotected springs and dip-wells, some of which are placed at inconvenient distances from dwelling-houses. At Newport a spring situated on the seashore is covered at very high tide.

Penybryn, a small village situated in the parish of Bridell, derives its supply from a dip-well situated in a yard where it is liable to all kinds of pollution. It is also a long distance from the village.

The question of providing proper water supplies for St. Dogmells and Penybryn has been considered and is still being considered by the council, but owing to the difficulty of coming to terms with a local landowner in the former case and of obtaining a convenient supply in the latter, the council have hitherto not been successful in their efforts.

Drainage and Sewerage.—In no part of the district is there a complete system of drainage and sewerage. At Newport, St. Dogmells, Cilgerran, and Dinas, there are stone box sewers which extend along the main streets. At St. Dogmell's there is also a

sewer, about 300 yards long, made of glazed stone-ware pipes with the joints cemented. These sewers receive surface water from the roads and the yards in their neighbourhood and discharge ultimately into the streams.

In 1901, after Dr. Sweeting's inspection, the council employed an engineer to report upon these villages with a view to sewerage, but beyond that nothing further has been done.

Excrement disposal.—The type of closet that prevails in the district is the pail closet. Many houses, however, have no closet accommodation, though latterly, owing to the efforts of the medical officer of health and the inspector of nuisances, wooden pail privies have been provided in several instances where none had formerly existed. The contents of pails are disposed of by burial in gardens, though exceptionally they may be removed by a scavenger or, as in one instance which came to my notice, thrown into a conveniently situated stream.

In the village of St. Dogmells the mode of disposal, as already mentioned, is liable to pollute the water supplies and for this reason, if for no other, the council should arrange for the public scavenging of the contents of pail closets.

Scavenging.—The local authority undertakes the scavenging of house-refuse in the villages of St. Dogmells, Cilgerran, and Newport. At Cilgerran the work is in abeyance for nowhere could any information be obtained as to when scavenging was last definitely performed. At the other places house-refuse is removed weekly and dumped on "tips" situate outside the villages. At Newport, however, heaps of house-refuse were lying about on the beach where they constituted a nuisance and a danger to the general public.

Slaughter-houses.—The district contains 19 licensed slaughter-houses. Those that I saw were clean and in fair condition. Very little slaughtering is done, the supply of butchers' meat being obtained largely from outside districts.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk-shops.—Cowsheds generally are dirty, badly ventilated and badly paved. Three persons only are registered as cowkeepers and purveyors of milk. There are a large number of people, however, who keep cows but who state that they sell milk in small quantities and then only to neighbours. For these reasons they have not been registered.

Infectious diseases.—On receipt of a notification of infectious disease, the case is visited by the medical officer of health or the inspector of nuisances. Printed instructions are left. In cases of enteric fever, advice is given that the excreta should be treated with disinfectants or burnt after admixture with paraffin oil before burial in the gardens. When the case is freed from isolation—to the extent that this is practicable in the cottages I have described—the room and clothing are fumigated with sulphur dioxide or formalin vapour. No other means of disinfection of clothing and bedding are available, but I am informed that the medical officer of health is urging his council to buy a portable steam disinfecter.

Owing to the impossibility of isolating infectious cases at their homes, infectious disease, particularly enteric fever, has on more than one occasion spread to other members of the household.

Recently the council have engaged the services of a nurse for a case of enteric fever that had occurred in St. Dogmells.

No isolation hospital accommodation has been provided. Following upon Dr. Sweeting's recommendation which was made 14 years ago the council acquired a site of one acre of land for that purpose in the vicinity of Eglwysrw, and concrete foundations were laid down. Beyond inviting the Cardigan Rural District Council to combine with them for hospital purposes, an invitation which was not accepted, nothing further has been done. Having regard to the condition of cottages and to the prevalence of infectious disease it is on every ground desirable that the council should not longer delay to provide hospital accommodation.

Medical practitioners practising in the district appear up to now to have been somewhat lax in the matter of notification of phthisis.

Nuisances.—Pigsties are fairly common and are situated in proximity to dwellings and roads. Owing to the time of the year I saw but few pigs in them, but in the late summer and autumn when the sties are occupied, they must become a source of nuisance. I understand that byelaws with regard to the keeping of swine have been considered, but were not pursued on the ground that they would only permit the keeping of swine at a prohibitive distance from dwellings. There is however no occasion for such a provision, and byelaws to secure the maintenance of pigsties in a cleanly and wholesome condition could be adopted with advantage.

Other nuisances observed were due to overflowing pails in privies, but these were not many; objectionable accumulations of house-refuse in gardens are also met with and instances of slop water being thrown on the roads and into streams. At St. Dogmells the water-closets of the workhouse are drained directly into a stream.

Sanitary Administration.

The medical officer of health, Dr. David Havard, M.D., D.P.H., receives the salary of £50 per annum, part of which is repaid out of county funds. He holds the appointments of medical officer and public vaccinator for the Newport district of the Cardigan Union and is engaged in private practice. His annual reports have directed the attention of the council to the need of reforms in certain directions, notably the provision of an isolation hospital, improvement in scavenging, and the prevention of pollution of water supplies. In regard to housing he has personally inspected a large number of houses in the vicinity of Newport and has pointed out to his council the necessity for taking action.

The inspector of nuisances, Mr. Ivor Edgar Griffith George, who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, receives a salary of £55 per annum, part of which is repaid out of county funds. He holds other appointments, namely, inspector of new buildings in the St. Dogmells Rural District, a duty which he appears to consider covered by his salary as inspector of nuisances; inspector of new buildings in the Cardigan Rural District, £5 per annum; and inspector of nuisances in the

Cardigan Rural District, £25 per annum, part of which is repaid out of county funds. Since the date of my visit the councils concerned have proposed to increase Mr. George's salary by £25 on his undertaking to provide himself with a motor cycle.

Although the St. Dogmells Rural District Council have designated Mr. George to make inspections under the Housing Acts, they have not as yet considered any addition to his salary on that account.

Adoptive Acts.—Sections 23, 25, and 33 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, are stated to have been adopted.

Byelaws and Regulations.—Byelaws with respect to new streets and buildings for certain contributory parishes, and with respect to slaughter-houses for the whole of the district have been adopted.

Byelaws with respect to the cleansing of footways and pavements, removal of house-refuse, and the cleansing of earth-closets, privies, ashpits, &c., and with respect to common lodging-houses were adopted in 1879 by the guardians of the Cardigan Union acting as the rural sanitary authority and are stated to be still in force.

Regulations with respect to dairies, cowsheds and milk-shops were adopted in 1899.

On review of my inquiry I would make the following recommendations as to matters which appear to need the special attention of the council:—

Recommendations.

1. The council should without further delay administer the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909, in regard to unhealthy houses within their district, and consider the desirability of providing dwellings for the working-classes.

2. The council, in order to facilitate the administration of the above Acts, should appoint a housing committee with instructions to meet once a month for the consideration of records of inspections made under the Housing regulations by their inspector and the reports of the medical officer of health.

3. The council should provide isolation hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease occurring within their district, and an efficient steam disinfecter for the disinfection of infected articles of clothing and bedding.

4. The council should without unnecessary delay make arrangements for an efficient water-supply and drainage and sewerage for St. Dogmells, Newport, and Cilgerran.

5. The council should arrange for an improved system of scavenging for St. Dogmells, Newport, and Cilgerran and, perhaps, other villages in their district.

I am much indebted to Mr. Davies (the clerk), Dr. Havard, and Mr. George, for the assistance which was ungrudgingly given to me during the inspection and to others who supplied me with various data and information.

MORGAN J. REES.

APPENDIX.

I.—MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. DOGMELLS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL RELATING TO THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

October 11th, 1911.

The clerk was directed to send notices to the owners of houses, which are in an extreme state of insanitation, calling upon them to remedy the defects immediately.

February 8th, 1912.

Proposed and resolved “ that the council whilst firmly believing in the principle and urgent necessity of the Housing and Town Planning Act as an immediate means to uplift the working-classes in morality, sobriety, and general comfort, yet are reluctantly compelled to state, and that most convincingly, that the Local Rates are so overburdened as to render it impossible for them to bear the cost of providing the new houses and other laudable conveniences recommended by the Act. Consequently, the council feel it incumbent to respectfully draw the serious attention of the Local Government Board to this important side of the matter, and to state, and that most emphatically, that a substantial Imperial grant must be provided before the blessings of this excellent measure can ever be placed within reach of the multitude.”

May 30th, 1912.

The clerk having reported the receipt of elaborate returns to be made under these Acts, and having reported to the council that the inspector of nuisances was unable to fill up such returns—It was resolved that the forms be returned to the Local Government Board with a covering letter informing the Board that no action had been taken under the Acts further than to give a few owners notices to remedy defects in their houses, and that since these notices were served no further action had been taken.

November 14th, 1912.

The clerk was directed to write in reply to the letter received from the Local Government Board that while this council does move under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, any of the extreme steps advocated by the Act are unnecessary in their district.

January 16th, 1913.

The question of the future progress of the council under the above Act (*i.e.*, Housing and Town Planning Act) was adjourned to the next meeting, the sanitary inspector in the meantime being directed to make his inspection under the Public Health Act, 1875. The clerk was directed to forward, in answer to the letter received from the Local Government Board with regard to the Act, the resolution passed on the 14th day of November last.

February 6th, 1913.

Resolved that a committee consisting of the Chairman . . . be appointed to consider the journal of the inspector with regard to the houses reported on therein by him, and to report to the next meeting.

March 6th, 1913.

“ Resolved that the report of the committee appointed in connection with the housing conditions in the district be, and is hereby, adopted.

“ A list of 188 inspections made by the inspector since January, 1912, were gone through and his action in connection with the same confirmed and instructions given as to further procedure in case of default.*

“ The action taken in connection with eight buildings inspected under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and found defective confirmed.

“ It was decided to include ‘ the discussions of the new building bye-laws ’ on the agenda of the next committee meeting.

“ The medical officer of health, Dr. Havard, having asked under what Act the inspection of houses were in future to be made, it was decided that inspections were in future to be made under the Housing and Town Planning Act; instructions were accordingly given, several members remarking that they hoped the work would be done in the same spirit as it had been done during the past year.”

TABLES RELATING TO PARISHES IN ST. DOGMELLS RURAL DISTRICT.

I.—Area, Population, Rateable and Assessable Values.

—	Area in Acres.	Population.		De- crease.	In- crease.	Rate- able Value.	Assess- able Value.
		1901.	1911.				
St. Dogmells R.D. ...	58,872	8,252	7,888	364	—	£ 41,528	£ 28,169
<i>Civil Parishes.</i>							
Bayvil	1,351	67	71	—	4	944	574
Bridell	2,219	237	225	12	—	1,704	1,058
Cilgerran	2,690	1,033	940	93	—	2,917	2,182
Dinas	2,545	694	673	21	—	2,214	1,656
Eglwysrw	3,701	393	367	26	—	2,723	1,711
Llanfair Nant Gwyn...	1,694	165	166	—	1	1,178	753
Llanfihangel Penbedw	2,454	297	301	—	4	1,647	1,162
Llantood	1,843	199	167	32	—	1,061	648
Llanychlwydog	2,315	125	127	—	2	1,486	925
Manordeifi	4,443	631	606	25	—	3,517	2,484
Meline... ..	4,499	297	302	—	5	1,927	1,207
Monington	1,028	60	51	9	—	690	451
Moylgrove	2,489	320	300	20	—	1,702	1,100
Nevern	14,735	982	952	30	—	7,445	4,595
Newport	4,503	1,222	1,148	74	—	4,507	3,490
St. Dogmells Rural ...	3,844	1,286	1,236	50	—	4,193	3,114
Whitechurch	2,519	244	256	—	12	1,673	1,049

II.—Number of Houses, and Rentals.

Name of Parish.	Total No. of houses.	No. of un- occupied houses.	Rents over £16.	Rents £10- £16.	Rents £5-£10.	Rents under £5.
Bayvil	21	2	—	3	5	13
Bridell	63	10	3	2	17	41
Cilgerran	284	13	7	6	47	224
Dinas	224	16	3	11	118	92
Eglwysrw	88	4	4	13	25	46
Llanfair Nant Gwyn ...	37	—	1	6	12	18
Llanfihangel Penbedw ...	69	5	1	3	27	38
Llantood	42	4	5	3	5	29
Llanychlwydog	34	—	—	4	10	20
Manordeifi	175	13	13	4	19	139
Meline	85	8	3	8	11	63
Monington	14	2	2	5	1	6
Moylgrove	100	6	1	5	8	86
Nevern	274	21	23	12	33	206
Newport	454	16	10	70	179	195
St. Dogmells Rural ...	402	18	8	26	150	218
Whitechurch	70	1	1	12	16	41
Total	2,436	139	85	193	683	1,475

